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IPW #

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\*ALSO CERTIFIED TO PRACTICE BEFORE

THE U.S. PATENT OFFICE OR IN OTHER STATES

December 10, 2004

Via Express Mail (# ER 614506836 US)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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OF COUNSEL:  
GENE BROUSSARD

In re Application of  
Derrick Faucheux and Joel J. Miller

Serial No. 10/815,011

Filing Date: March 30, 2004

Examiner: Avila, Stephen P.

For: Watercraft Drive Unit

Art Unit: 3617

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December 10, 2004

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is an Amendment in response to the Office Action on the merits dated September 10, 2004 in the above identified application.

The amendment presents 3 new independent claim and 3 new dependent claims. With this amendment, there 24 total claims pending and 6 independent claims. The fee for each new independent claim in excess of 3 is \$100.00. The fee for each new claim in excess of 20 is \$25.00. The total fee for the additional claims now present are  $3 \times \$100 + 3 \times \$25.00 = \$375.00$ . A U.S. Postal Service Money Order in the amount of \$375.00 is enclosed to cover the fees for the new claims.

Also enclosed is a Certificate of Mailing.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,

William W. Stagg  
Reg. No. 31,225  
Attorney for Applicant

WWS/lmk

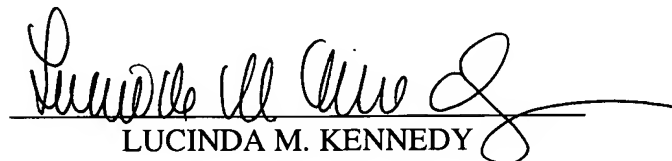
Enclosures: Amendment  
U.S. Postal Money Order in the amount of \$375.00  
Certificate of Mailing  
Return Receipt Postcard

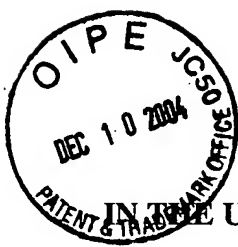
cc: Mr. Joel Miller / Mr. Derrick Faucheux  
#98122



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Lucinda M. Kennedy, certify that the foregoing Amendment in Response to Office Action, and Money Order in the amount of \$375.00 is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service by Express Mail (#ER 614506836 US) addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2004.

  
LUCINDA M. KENNEDY



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of  
Derrick Faucheux and Joel J. Miller

Serial No. 10/815,011

Filing Date: March 30, 2004

Examiner: Avila, Stephen P.

For: Watercraft Drive Unit

Art Unit: 3617

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

December 7, 2004

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This communication is submitted in response to the Office Action of September 10, 2004. Please amend the application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Applicant has amended Claims 3, 7, 12 and 16 and added new claims 21 - 24. Please amend the claims as indicated in the Listing of Claims attached hereto.

**REMARKS**

1. Claims 1-4, 8-13, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over a proposed combination of Adams et al (US 3,993,116) and Christiaens et al. (US 6,418,717). The Examiner thought that Adams et al. disclosed the claimed subject matter including a method and apparatus for a transom mounted watercraft drive unit with a support plate 18, a sleeve 26, a first drive shaft 92, an upper bracket 20, a lower bracket 22, a universal joint 90, a drive shaft housing 31, a

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